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Senate Education Committee comes to Marquette to hear area views on graduation requirements

LANSING — The Senate Education Committee will travel to Marquette on March 6 to listen to area residents about proposed high school graduation requirements.

“This proposal would make substantial changes to the education offered to Michigan’s young people,” said Kuipers, who chairs the committee. “Much of the feedback I’ve heard so far has been positive but I want to hear more before taking this up.”

The hearing will begin at 1 p.m. at Marquette Senior High School, 1203 W. Fair Ave., in Marquette. Parents, teachers and local school administrators are invited to testify. All are welcome to participate.

The Senate is considering a proposal from the state superintendent and State Board of Education that would implement graduation requirements beyond the half year of civics class now required. The plan would require students to take certain courses and a certain number of years, or equivalent credit, in different subjects:

- Four of English;
- Four of math, including Algebra I and II, and geometry;
- Three of science, including a year of biology, and either physics or chemistry;
- Three of social science, including half-year each of civics and economics, and a year each of U.S. and world history;
- Two of foreign language;
- One of health and physical education; and,
- One of visual or performing arts.

Michigan is among a handful of states that have minimal statewide graduation requirements. In Michigan, graduation requirements are left to local school boards.

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